

MINUTES OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2009  
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH  
10 N. SENATE AVENUE – ROOM 301A  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Members present were Samuel Schlosser, President; Dave Thomas (via phone), David Collins; Kevin Tully (via phone); Joe Evans; Kent Tolliver; Randy Maxwell; and Paula Presnoples. Also in attendance from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development were Teresa Voors, Commissioner; Scott Sanders, Chief Financial Officer; Mary Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of Unemployment.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Schlosser at 10:04 am.

Mr. Schlosser welcomes guest Elizabeth Kallas on behalf of George Raymond from the Chamber of Commerce.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Commissioner Voors begins discussion with the December effects of National recession compared to other states. Our numbers were larger than expected but our system is able to hold up to this amount of data. Other states have been experiencing system crashes while ours is only being used to 50% of its capacity. 180,000 are on state UI which is 100% higher than last year's numbers. When the economy increases we can diminish our focus from training. For now, we've visited regions that were hit hard and mandated extended hours at our WorkOne centers. South Bend and Elkhart will now be open longer hours to assist our fellow Hoosiers with their UI claims.

Along with mandated extended hours we have also updated our system and the way we process claims to be more efficient. Some people can be paid over night when utilizing our online system. Others may not get paid as quickly when mailing in their vouchers. There is still a 21 day turnaround time frame for people to get paid but this will be minimized if filing online.

As of February 16<sup>th</sup> we will have hired 50 additional adjudicators for our Fort Wayne office and plan on hiring 50 more for Indianapolis. Our plan is to hire fellow Hoosiers who are currently on unemployment to adjudicate. This way they will have the knowledge of what it takes to file thru the system.

At this time Commissioner Voors directs attention to the Federal Stimulus Package. In regards to this package there has been additional money granted to us for the Trust Fund. In accepting this money it will require us to enhance benefits and increase wages to workers which in turn will not benefit us. A state law would have to be passed to increase benefits and a new base period would have to be established. Mrs. Presnoples questions if any legislatures feel that it is a good idea to increase benefits and Commissioner Voors answers that yes some do feel this is a step in the right direction. She mentions that she will be meeting with Ways and Means today where general discussion will continue on this matter. Discussion ensued.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Schlosser asked if all Board members had reviewed the previous meetings minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Collins to accept the January 7, 2009 minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Maxwell and unanimously approved.

It was mentioned that the annual report was electronically sent to the board prior to this meeting.

## **OPERATIONAL UPDATE:**

Mr. Sanders began with an update on performance metrics regarding the spreadsheet of the State Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed. He pointed out that there was a decrease in continued claims for the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> due to the exhaust of state benefits. There was an 80% increase of initial claims from 2008 to 2009 and a 98% increase on the continued claims.

Mr. Sanders directed attention to the drafted version of the Unemployment Insurance Scorecard for January 2009. He began to walk thru the metrics of it going over the Measures column and what our main target should be then the results by month end. It was brought to attention by Mr. Schlosser that this should be handed out by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month and at that time Mrs. Presnoples suggested moving the board meetings to midmonth. Mr. Sanders agreed and suggested we look at the dates on a calendar and make a decision whether the second or third Wednesday of the month would be better.

Mr. Sanders directed attention to the Unemployment Rates Map for December. The state of Michigan still has the highest unemployment rate in the nation which was 10.6%. He then touched on the Trust Fund. Kentucky is now borrowing to replenish their trust fund along with other states such as California, Ohio and New York.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

At this time, Mr. Schlosser asked if there was any new business. As no one replied he began with questioning Mr. Baer's replacement which is being looked at by Commissioner Voors.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

The next board meeting will be March 18, 2009.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Schlosser moved to adjourn at 10:55 am, and it was approved.